

**PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

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BINGO GAMES**

**S. J. R. No. 18**

**Proposing a constitutional amendment to authorize bingo games for charitable purposes on a local option election basis.**

*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

Section 1. That Article III, Section 47, of the Texas Constitution be amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 47. (a) The Legislature shall pass laws prohibiting lotteries and gift enterprises in this State.

"(b) The Legislature by law may authorize and regulate bingo games conducted by a church, synagogue, religious society, volunteer fire department, nonprofit veterans organization, fraternal organization, or nonprofit organization supporting medical research or treatment programs. A law enacted under this subsection must permit the qualified voters of any county, justice precinct, or incorporated city or town to determine from time to time by a majority vote of the qualified voters voting on the question at an election whether bingo games may be held in the county, justice precinct, or city or town. The law must also require that:

"(1) all proceeds from the games are spent in Texas for charitable purposes of the organizations;

"(2) the games are limited to one location as defined by law on property owned or leased by the church, synagogue, religious society, volunteer fire department, nonprofit veterans organization, fraternal organization, or nonprofit organization supporting medical research or treatment programs; and

"(3) the games are conducted, promoted, and administered by members of the church, synagogue, religious society, volunteer fire department, nonprofit veterans organization, fraternal organization, or nonprofit organization supporting medical research or treatment programs.

"(c) The law enacted by the Legislature authorizing bingo games must include:

"(1) a requirement that the entities conducting the games report quarterly to the Comptroller of Public Accounts about the amount of proceeds that the entities collect from the games and the purposes for which the proceeds are spent; and

"(2) criminal or civil penalties to enforce the reporting requirement."

Sec. 2. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be submitted to the voters at an election to be held on November 4, 1980. The ballot shall be printed to provide for voting for or against the proposition: "The constitutional amendment to authorize bingo games on a local option election basis if the games are conducted by a church, synagogue, religious society, volunteer fire department, nonprofit veterans organization, fraternal organization, or nonprofit organization supporting medical research or treatment programs and if the proceeds are to be spent in Texas for charitable purposes of the organizations."

Adopted by the Senate on March 20, 1979: Yeas 24, Nays 7; Senate concurred in House amendments on May 14, 1979: Yeas 25, Nays 5; adopted by the House, with amendments on April 25, 1979: Yeas 103, Nays 37, one present not voting.

Filed without signature.

Filed with Secretary of State, May 15, 1979.